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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Lt. Governor Kinder Mobilizes Additional Guardmembers, Request Made for Expedited Federal Declaration**

**JEFFERSON CITY** - Gov. Matt Blunt and Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, serving as acting governor, today requested President George W. Bush grant an expedited declaration for the entire state to support potential near-record flooding along the Mississippi river. With foreseeable flooding in West Quincy, Kinder deployed an additional 15 National Guard Citizen-Soliders today to help manage relief efforts.

"Gov. Blunt and I are ensuring that Missouri is taking every action possible to provide critical resources and to minimize damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure as flooding continues to threaten the northeast portion of our state," Lt. Governor Kinder said. "This declaration would be a welcome reprieve, and I ask the President to take swift action as we move more National Guardmembers into areas where flooding looks inevitable."

If approved for direct federal assistance, the state can request mission assignments from the federal government which will provide critical emergency supplies at a 75 percent federal cost share. Local governments request these emergency needs through SEMA. If predictions hold true and Missouri experiences historical flooding, damage assessment teams will be deployed as soon as flood waters recede to determine the eligibility for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance.

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The City of Alexandria has begun evacuating hundreds of residents with the help of local law enforcement and Missouri State Highway Patrol Troopers are scheduling flyovers of the levees along the Mississippi River. The Department of Social Services is continuing to work with the American Red Cross and Salvation Army on sheltering needs.

Lt. Governor Kinder has now mobilized nearly 200 National Guardmembers and activated the State Emergency Operations Center on Wednesday to assist local government with flood fighting efforts.

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